

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04622

FOR US SALT II

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, GW, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT TO USSR OF SPD ARMS CONTROL SPECIALIST

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) BUNDESTAG ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT SPOKESMAN ALFONS PAWELCZYK VISITED MOSCOW FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 23. HE WAS A GUEST OF MOSCOW'S IMEMO INSTITUTE, TO WHICH HE DELIVERED AN ADDRESS ON SECURITY AND DETENTE POLICY. DURING HIS VISIT HE CONFERRED AMONG OTHERS WITH IMEMO LEADER INOZEMTSEV, USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV, AS WELL AS SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. AFTER HIS RETURN, HE OFFERED THE FOLLOWING INSIGHTS TO EMBASSY OFFICER.

2. NEUTRON WEAPON. PAWELCZYK SAID THAT DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HE HAD RAISED, ON A "PERSONAL BASIS", THE IDEA OF INTRODUCING THE NEUTRON WEAPON INTO MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE TO BE ON THE ONE HAND
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A WESTERN RENUNCIATION OF FUTURE OPTIONS FOR THIS WEAPON, AND ON THE OTHER HAND A REDUCTION OF APPROPRIATE SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS (MEANING TANKS). HIS SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS LIMITED THEMSELVES TO SAYING THAT THEY DOUBTED WHETHER THEY WOULD IN FACT GET SUCH AN OFFER FROM THE WEST. IN PAWELCZYK'S VIEW, THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT REMARK NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT ILLUSTRATED

SOVIET KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATE OF DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER IN THE WEST, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WAS NOT A TURN-DOWN OF THE MBFR IDEA. THUS, PAWELCZYK IS INCLINED TO VIEW IT AS A POSSIBLE SIGN OF INTEREST.

3. IN WHAT PAWELCZYK TERMED A PUZZLING REMARK, ONE OF HIS SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS HAD SAID THAT THE USSR WOULD IMPROVE ITS TANK ARMOR TO COUNTERACT ENHANCED RADIATION WERE THE WEST TO ADOPT THE ER WEAPON.

4. SS-20. PAWELCZYK SAID HE DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE SS-20 IN RELATION TO THE NEUTRON WEAPON. NEITHER DID THE SOVIETS. PAWELCZYK THEN OFFERED EMBOFF HIS OWN VIEW THAT PITTING THE NEUTRON WEAPON AGAINST THE SS-20 WAS LIKE OFFERING A "BICYCLE FOR AN AUTOMOBILE."

5. MBFR - SMALL STEPS. PAWELCZYK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF MAKING PROGRESS IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH "SMALL STEPS", WHICH COULD LEAD TO AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES. HE SAID THE SOVIETS HAD MADE THE POINT THAT THEY DID NOT WANT ANY SUCH STEPS TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR REDUCTIONS.

6. AS A GENERAL COMMENT PAWELCZYK SAID THAT BOTH HE AND THE FRG EMBASSY HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE DEGREE
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OF SOVIET INTEREST IN HIS VISIT. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL INVITED GUESTS HAD SHOWN UP FOR A DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR.
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